

20 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Indirect Assessment


1. The first attempt at determining how professional but casual assessors assess was made on the evening of 16 February 1967. The "subject" was a gypsy located in Baltimore. The plan for selection of the subject was to be self-selected if possible. The experimenter chose an area where a number of store-front palmists are located and simply walked slowly along the street until solicited by one. Of approximately eight establishments "E" was approached by one.

2. For \$1.00 the "subject" gave a reading that sounded well-practiced and consisted of platitudes. Through this the "subject" stared intently at the palm and occasionally would glance to the face of "E." When queried as to how the assessment was accomplished the "subject" answered "from the lines" in the hand. Further questioning elicited the answer of "I was born" with the gift." When asked why "E" was approached and deemed approachable the answer was "from the face."

3. At this point the "subject" requested \$10.00 for further information and a "blessing." After some discussion "subject" agreed to "bless" for no additional fee. This consisted of requested the "E" to empty each pocket consecutively and pronouncing utterances over the contents. This was done rapidly until the wallet pocket was reached. At this point the "subject" showed greater interest and "E" became too busy being protective to be objective. After a short but direct discussion the "subject" seemed to understand that "E" was interested only in obtaining certain information and not in a blessing or dancing girls and was not about to part with the contents of the wallet. "Subject" then stated that "E" would have to return at an earlier hour at another time.

Impression: This first attempt was informative but in a limited way. This in part was due to the locale and the fact that "E" could not just be an objective observer. Nonetheless there were indications that facial cues, as opposed to palms, are used initially. The examination of the contents of one's pockets also reveals information which in turn could be used to "accurately assess." This latter aspect is fairly straightforward and not particularly interesting from a project viewpoint. The use of facial cues could be worth pursuing. If the opportunity presents itself an attempt will be made to follow-up with the same subject at a more propitious time.

SG11


Project Officer